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The Letters of John Stuart Mill. Edited, with an introduction, by HUGH S. R. ELIOT; with a Note on Mill's Private Life by MARY TAYLOR. Two volumes. (London: Longmans, Green and Company. 1911. Pp. vi, 312; 408.)

The letters and other material collected in these volumes cannot fail to interest students of Mill's work. They relate to a great variety of topics and were written to many different persons in various countries. But there is a thread of unity running through them, for most of them contain something on the writer's views on literary, social, and political subjects. Read in their order, they illustrate his method of thought and the maturing effects of time on his ideas. They disclose, even more fully than his books, the prodigious activity of the man.

Mill was a careful correspondent. He kept copies of all his important letters, and seems to have written them with the thought of publication in mind. They are all in a serious vein; there is never a playful quip nor a bit of gossip, even in those written to his most intimate friends. They show that Mill's ordinary state of mind was grave or even sombre. The "riddle of the painful earth" oppressed him. He confesses that he could not drop a puzzle till he had found a solution; and the presence of so much evil, injustice, and suffering in the world, haunted him always. He wishes to believe in a good and loving Creator, but finds it necessary to deny His omnipotence and to assume that His beneficent designs are marred by the badness of His available material.

To do something toward lessening the miseries of the world was the ruling passion of Mill's life. Two classes of victims of social injustice appealed profoundly to his sympathies: the laboring classes and women. His letters show that his writings and his political activity were primarily inspired by the desire to promote remedies for the evils that afflict these classes. Unfortunately for his peace of mind, the only remedy which his reason could accept as effective in each case was at once extremely difficult and extremely unpopular. Restraints on increase of population and the extension of the suffrage to women found small support even in the classes they were designed to benefit. Hence much sadness.

In religion and in practical reforms Mill found himself out of real sympathy and touch with contemporary Englishmen. He wished to coöperate with other men, but his terms were seldom acceptable to other reformers. He laments that he was compelled to act so much alone. In truth his letters show that he had a

profound contempt for the mental capacity of his countrymen. John Bright, for example, he regarded as "a mere demagogue" (I, 233). He speaks of "the extreme difficulty of getting any ideas into England's stupid head" (I, 131). Again, "The characteristic of Germany is knowledge without thought; of France, thought without knowledge; of England, neither thought nor knowledge" (II, 377). Torn from their context these expressions seem arrogant, but they are only sad, the bitter protest of a despairing reformer, who finds himself only a voice crying in the wilderness.

As in everything about Mill, these volumes have a good deal regarding his connection with Mrs. Taylor. The very interesting biographical sketch by the editor has only a page on the subject; but it is supplemented by a ten-page Note by Miss Mary Taylor, granddaughter of Mrs. Taylor. The Note contributes some new and important facts. Both writers are confessedly desirous of defending Mill's memory. Accepting everything they say, two observations suggest themselves. First, that a social reformer who allows himself to fall in love with another man's wife, and who encourages her to bestow her affection and her society on him instead of her husband, is guilty of an offence against social order that no halo of personal purity can condone. It was a grievous sin, and grievously Mill's influence suffered for it.

The other observation is that, after all is said, the ascendancy held over Mill by Mrs. Taylor remains as much a mystery as before. It does not appear from other sources that she was a specially intellectual or otherwise remarkable woman. Yet after twenty-five years of intercourse with her, Mr. Mill was still dazzled by her wonderful gifts. Words seem to fail him when he writes of her. There are in the letters various praises of her. In the fragment of a diary kept by him in the year 1854, three years after their marriage, there are some remarkable passages: "I write only for her when I do not write entirely *from* her" (II, 373) "The companion who is the profoundest and most far-sighted and most clear-sighted thinker I have ever known." These and other passages make it very clear that, in the words of the editor, "Mill set her up as an idol and worshipped her." But a living idol must have qualities to hold the idolater, and this woman held a critical philosopher to his worship for thirty years. For her he risked his fame and usefulness. For her he outraged the rights of her amiable husband, and brought on himself estrangement from his own mother and sisters and not a few friends. Yet we have only his

own testimony to her intellectual gifts, and the cameo likeness given of her seems to say that she was not even pretty. The whole affair is a sad mystery.

Americans will read with special interest the considerable number of letters relating to our Civil War and to the attitude of the British Government and people towards the struggle. Mill's own sympathies were steadily and strongly on the side of the Union.

There are two excellent photogravure portraits of Mill; also a striking one of his father. There is a good index. The work of editing is done with tact and good judgment.

S. M. MACVANE.

Harvard University.

Ausgewählte Lesestücke zum Studium der politischen Oekonomie.

By KARL DIEHL and PAUL MOMBERT. (Karlsruhe: G. Braun. 1910. Pp. vi, 218.)

Leitfaden der Volkswirtschaftslehre. By A. ADLER. Sixth edition. (Leipzig: Gebhardt. 1910. Pp. 287.)

The "Selected Readings" constitute the first book of a series planned by Diehl and Mombert as aids in the investigation into certain economic problems by groups (seminars) of advanced students. This first volume deals with the theory of money, and divides itself into three groups of readings giving respectively the views of the mercantilists, of the "quantity theorists," and of the "cost-of-production theorists." The authors cited are Hörnigk, von Justi, Mun, Hume, Ricardo, Senior, Helfferich and John Stuart Mill.

To Mill is given the place of honor at the beginning of the book, not because the selections from his *Principles of Political Economy* would come first in the logical plan of the book, but chiefly because of his exceptional skill in exposition, and the unbiased critical tone of his work.

Each selection is prefaced by a short introduction the purpose of which is to set forth the author's contribution to the development of economic thought, and his place in the history of the science. This being all they attempt, these introductions are of slight importance to the purpose of the book. The main task of the collaborators was the choice of the readings, and where the range of choice is so wide it would be a work of supererogation on the part of the reviewer to criticize the selection which has been made. He can only voice his opinion that the task was well worth the doing.